

Chris Broedel, owner of *The Real Deal Geek* service company will be our first presenter in the New Year. He intends to discuss computer security, antivirus, malware and new threats.

Chris has taken over the business from his father, Milt [Milt's PC Service], after receiving guidance and instruction from him for the past 11 years. Previously Chris worked at Par Tech and interned in the Computer Repair department at MVCC, where he received a degree with honors in Computer Information Systems. He also has begun teaching at BOCES.



Chris offers repairs, training, upgrades and more, at competitive rates for both onsite [yours] and inhouse [his] — with free in-house estimates.

Tuesday, January 7, 2014 — 6 - 8:30 PM

New Hartford Library

Meeting Open to the Public — Free — Bring a friend

MINUTES

— Joe Penabad, Secretary



BUSINESS

The MVPCUG General Meeting with 27 members in attendance, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:00 PM in the Sammon Room of the New Hartford Library.

Jerry F. began by presenting the present slate of officers and Director-at-Large Jerry Grega as the candidates for election for the year 2014. Jerry F. asked for anyone wishing to volunteer for any position to step up...there were no takers in the audience. The proposed slate was approved by voice vote.

The proposed budget for 2014 was modified because of the need of a Projector to be compatible with Windows 8. Present Club Projector does not have adequate resolution. To accomplish this the Newsletter now will be available only on the Club web site. This will offset the cost of mailing the Newsletter for the cost of a Projector and some other items. Resolutions: 1) to revise the 2014 budget, 2) purchase a new Projector and 3) sell/trade-in the old Projector were voted on and passed.

Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period of 11/01/2013 to 11/30/2013 with six membership renewals and other income and expenses for a net income of \$36.59. The report was accepted.

Bill G. stated our present membership count is 57-58 paid members. There were only two entries for the T-shirt monthly computer related web-site question, the winner was Don Jennings.

Rod St Clair’s problem described in last month’s Newsletter was resolved by buying a used monitor at a local disposal service.

A discussion followed about getting more publicity for MVPCUG meeting announcements in the OD, both in the paper and on their web site, Jim Pease will follow up on this.

A question on Windows8 performance was answered by Bill G. that he was not having problems with supporting old programs such as XP or Lotus, check him out for more details.

PROGRAM

At 6:25 PM, Jerry F. introduced our speaker Kyle, CBG Supervisor @ BEST BUY, who was very entertaining in his presentation and most informative

on many topics. Kyle introduced the club members to several items, the HP Split-a Touch Screen Laptop, 4GB, the Microsoft Surface 23 GB – with a Window RT operating system, and the Google-Nexus Tablet. Kyle was able to answer many of the audience questions with informative and enthusiastic responses.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- Staples gift card. Fred Cole
- Walmart gift card. Don Pianka
- BestBuy gift card. Lou Barile
- Pens. Joe Penabad
- Pencils. Don Jennings
- Photo Paper. Gary Virkler
- 16 GB Flash Drive. Rod St Clair

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- Memo Pads. Jerry Finkelstein

WEB CONTEST WINNER

- T-shirt. Don Jennings

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry Finkelstein at 8:10 PM. Joe Penabad, secretary ♦

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Happy New Year! Hopefully all of you are reading this newsletter without trouble. This is the first issue that is not commercially printed. If you wish to read it on paper, you must print it yourself, but save money and ink by printing on both sides [if your printer allows] and using greyscale instead of color.



Please let us know what you like or don't like about the new look. We are in transition and might be making more adjustments in future issues so your early input is essential.

I'm starting off the new year by using my new computer and Windows7. I miss XP. It worked and did everything I wanted it to do. Windows7 and I are not getting along at all! I've had more programs crash in the last month than I did in the 10 years or so using XP. I do hope that 7 learns to behave soon. Just so you know and will forgive if you find errors. XP had fonts I liked but 7 has done away with them - I keep experimenting . . .

Random Access

Jason Fitzpatrick who writes for How-To-Geek.com is the author of the glossary on that site. I've captured his info and offer it to you — both experienced and novice users will gain some knowledge as we go along. Enjoy and Learn!

* * * * *

RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY [RAM]

Random Access Memory [RAM] is found in everything from computers to tablets to smartphones and everything in between [including routers, cable modems, and other embedded electronics]. RAM is a form of rapid access storage used by computers as an active workspace; it derives the “random” part of its name because the computer is able to access any individual data byte within the RAM at any given moment [by contrast, hard drives are read/written in entire blocks and thus not as quickly accessed as RAM modules].

NON-VOLATILE [RANDOM ACCESS] MEMORY

In contrast with the Random Access Memory [RAM] modules found in most computers and other devices, Non-volatile memory has a unique property—it retains the data contained within it even when the power is turned off.

All computer data is comprised of bits and bytes. Here is the explanation of each:

1 byte=8 bits

1 KB [kilobyte]=1,000 bytes

1 MB [megabyte]=1,000 KB or 1,000,000 bytes

1GB [gigabyte]=1,000 MB or 1,000,000,000 bytes

BACKUP

A backup is a duplicate copy of a data set or entire hard drive that is stored on a separate storage medium from the source file [or disk]. If the original data [e.g., family photos] is stored on the primary drive of a computer and those photos are copied onto a secondary drive, the data set on the secondary drive is the backup.

FULL BACKUP

A full backup, or system image, is a backup of a computer system that includes not only user data

stored on the machine [such as documents and photographs], but the entire operating system and installed applications. A full backup allows for a complete restoration of the system in the event of catastrophic failure.

ONLINE BACKUP

An online backup is a backup that is still accessible to the computer which initiated the backup process. For example, if you back up all your data from your personal computer to an external hard drive that remains attached to your personal computer at all times, it is, in the sense that it exists on two physical mediums, backed up.

OFFLINE BACKUP

Offline backup is a backup that is not accessible to the computer that initiated the backup process after the process is completed. If, for example, you backed up your data to an external hard drive but then removed the external hard drive and stored it, then the backup would be considered offline, as a catastrophe that could destroy the original data set [such as a power surge or malicious software] would not be able to touch the offline backup.

DIFFERENTIAL BACKUP

A differential backup system backs up the changes made to a system between the initial backup and the current backup. Unlike an incremental backup system, wherein only the newest changes from the previous increment are recorded, the differential system backs up everything that has changed from the initial backup on each subsequent backup. One way to visualize this is to think of incremental backup data sets, where A is the initial backup, as A + B + C + D, whereas differential backups are A + B + BC + BCD.

INCREMENTAL BACKUP

Incremental backups make it feasible to store a higher number of backups in a limited amount of space by building on an initial complete backup. The data set is first completely backed up to the backup medium and then, at the scheduled backup times, the incremental changes to the data set are recorded. If using this backup model, the backup size will be the size of the entire data set plus whatever data has changed during the increment of time between the initial backup and the subsequent backups. ◆

Surfin' the 'Net

— John Hunter



Except for *The Daily Show*, *The Colbert Report* and *The Simpsons*, satire and satirists garner few regular media appearances. On the Internet, *The Onion* appears to be the best known of the satiric websites around. For those who wish to inhale a whiff of satire, visit www.freewoodpost.com.

This site may provoke anger if the stories presented are misinterpreted by readers. At my visit, for example, one headline read “Religious Right Furious Pope Frances Wants Them To Follow The Bible.” The copy reads like a real news story. Unless readers are careful, the content appears to be true. The site facetiously quotes Senator Ted Cruse, Vice Presidential Candidate Sarah Palin and Congressman Paul Ryan who refute the recent Vatican letter that promotes concern for the poor rather than concern for money.

“How dare he [the Pope] say trickle-down economics doesn't work . . . The beloved Ronald Reagan, who was far more religious than any Pope, . . .” You get the idea. Even funnier are the reactions posted after each article which reference either the article or the posts of other readers.

Another article quotes Sarah Palin as saying that “Thanksgiving is for real Americans not Native Americans.” Note Palin never said this, but given her track record, she could have. Enjoy the humor.

Ecology at Work

Large property owners such as farmers and ranchers who wish to calculate greenhouse gas emissions generated by animals and agricultural operations now have a stand-alone tool to do so. Colorado State University developed software that compares current greenhouse gas emissions with projected reductions in emissions based on operations changes. To find out more about this program click on www.cometfarm.nrel.colostate.edu.

To use the assessment, click on the quick energy form. This form asks for electricity, gas such as natural gas and propane and liquid fuels such as gasoline, diesel 2 and biodiesel. Once fuel amounts are entered, the program generates the amounts of greenhouse gases generated such carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and so on in pounds. Farmers can then test changes in greenhouse gas emissions brought about by differing management activities. Users must

register to enter the site, but use of the software is free. As the environment becomes more susceptible to climate changes, this information becomes very useful.

Your Government at Work, Really

The Library of Congress [LOC] provides many services and programs for students, teachers and citizens. One such service is the American Folklife Center. Center activities may be accessed by visiting loc.gov/folklife or by using *Facebook* at facebook.com/americanfolklifecenter.

Site use through *Facebook* requires users to register. If individuals do not wish to use *Facebook*, they should use the loc.gov/americanfolklifecenter website. Each week the LOC posts songs, images and other items from the folklife center accompanied by expert commentary provided by library staff.

The site also provides information about upcoming concerts, lectures and symposia. Individuals planning a trip to the District of Columbia should consult this site for free cultural activities available during their visit.

Divorce Capitals in the U.S.

The *Huffington Post* recently ran a news story about divorce and the most popular destinations where marriages go to die. The web site www.dailybeast.com conducted the survey quoted by the *Huffington Post*. The information may be accessed at www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/04/us-divorce-rate_n_4184261 or by going directly to the Daily Beast.

Interesting statistics include the fact that NY, PA, Washington D.C., NJ and Minnesota have the lowest divorce rates, 6.05-7.65 per thousand. Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Alaska and Maine have the highest divorce rates per thousand, 12.64-14.35.

The interactive map also indicates the cities where divorce is highest. Panama City, FL ranks number one followed by Sierra Vista, Az, Charleston, WV, Medford, Oregon and Reno, Nevada.

The survey indicates that no one reason causes divorce. Genetics, income levels, education and location all play a part in marital destruction.

In 2009 Brown University reported that marital dissolution may be contagious, and states' cultural and political identities may influence their residents marriage patterns.

The article also notes that fewer people get married or divorced during recessions. Understandable.

Until next time . . .



? Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that before airplanes were detected with radar acoustic mirrors were used? If you wander the coasts of Great Britain, you'll find strange concrete constructions dotting the coastline, like castoffs of a previous civilization. These curved concrete walls and concrete half-spheres are acoustic mirrors—remnants of Britain's ambitious WWI-era aircraft detection system. Prior to the advent of radar-based aircraft detection the only way to detect an aircraft was to either see it or hear it. The acoustic mirrors hyper-enhanced human hearing, by focusing distant sound waves onto a singular point where a microphone was mounted. Soldiers could listen for incoming aircraft and sound the alarm to scramble out interceptors. The concrete acoustic mirrors worked well enough for what they were but the ever increasing speed of aircraft rendered them obsolete by the mid-1930s. Despite the short effective lifespan of the system, it continued to contribute to Britain's national defense measures well into the future. The communication network that had been set up for the acoustic mirrors was adapted for communication between early radar towers; that very network gave Britain a distinct edge over Germany during WWII, as German radar stations had no such network.

. . . that Apple's Firewire cable design was influenced by GameBoy link cables [GBLC]? FireWire is Apple's incarnation of the IEEE 1394 interface. Apple initiated the research into developing the high speed serial bus connection and accompanying cable in 1986; FireWire was unveiled to the public in 1995. The most prominent feature on FireWire cables is the beefy connectors terminating each end of the cable. Apple wanted a sturdy cable with a sturdy connection that could withstand repeated use and abuse in both commercial and personal computing applications. To that end they studied the connectors for the GBLC; cables designed to be stepped on, jammed into ports, and otherwise thoroughly abused by children. If it was sturdy enough to withstand the abuse of children, they reasoned, it was sturdy enough to withstand anything adult users would throw at it. The stout 6-conductor connector from the GBLC was elongated slightly and the actual connection points recessed further into the connector, but the basic design remained unchanged. ♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

Happy New Year everybody! By the time you read this you've already given/received your Christmas gifts, exchanged some of them, crossed out lists, made new ones and you're settling into Winter and the New Year. Lists are headlines in newspapers and magazines, hard copy and electronic, the best and worst of the 2013 stuff. The best movies, the best cars, the best of everything you can think of. Technology, for instance. The *New York Times* highly recommended *Evernote*, the free app that puts all the different parts of your life in perfect order. All your photos, your music, your email, all your different kinds of documents, your private notes, your novel, your notes on the novel, all of it, all of YOU, and orders them into one (not-so-simple) app. Of course, you don't have to work it all at once; one file at a time is more my speed.



Slate did its annual thing, listed and discussed in detail the biggest flops of 2013. The Google Barge was given the thumbs down. What was that, exactly? A mysterious barge out there in the San Francisco Bay. A floating data center. Really? Really. Of course, the iPhone SC was on their list. I go to <http://www.Slate.com> a lot, but not particularly for its tech coverage. It's an emagazine that covers everything in the news.

Have you tried *PONCHO*, “the weather service with a personality?” It's a fun way to get your weather reports delivered to you on your smart phone.

*Editor's Note: Poncho is currently limited to New York City area only according to their website.

We closed last year with thoughts about our diminishing expectations of our rights to privacy. Next year will not get better. New studies indicate that schools around the country use Web tools and the data is seen to be seriously at risk. Student information like names, contact information, health status are not protected. So much for safety in the clouds! ♦

explorer

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The MVPCUG was founded in 1981 by individuals interested in IBM compatible computers and consists of volunteers whose expertise range from novice to professional.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm, usually at the New Hartford Library, 2 Library Lane, New Hartford.

Meetings are open to the public. Membership fee is \$25.

Stay connected . . . to the MVPCUG
 Mohawk Valley PC User Group, Inc.
 \$25 for initial sign-up - or renewal

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what's.com/ing ~ Blood Donor Month ~ January 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 6 - Epiphany or Twelfth Night January 7 - Orthodox Christmas January 10 - League of Nations Day January 27 - Holocaust Memorial Day - Viet Nam Peace Day			1 	2	3	4
5	6	7 Monthly General Meeting NHartford Library 6 PM	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	15	16	17	18
19	20 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	